

## UNDERGRADUATE COURSE SYLLABUS

### PAF 351: Global Social Problems Monday 2:15 – 5:00 pm Fall 2018

Instructor: Professor Allan Mazur

Phone: (315) 445- 1970

Office: School Management Rm 302

Email: amazur@syr.edu

Office Hours: By appointment, at a time and place of mutual convenience.

#### **Course Description:**

Topics include war, inequality, population, scarcity, environment, and technology.

#### **Additional Course Description:**

The focus here is on global issues in the post-9/11 world, with considerable attention to third world nations and development. Other problems worldwide in extent include inequality among peoples, conflict and terrorism, population, human rights, resource scarcity and environmental degradation. We consider potential solutions, and ways in which public policies have been implemented, for better or worse.

The course gives a broad historical overview of how the globe came to be divided along its major social alignments: by religion/ethnicity, the developed vs. the less developed world, and West versus East. With this background, we examine specific problems: conflict, inequality, population, environment, and whether China is becoming a superpower and inevitable rival to the United States.

#### **Prerequisites / Co-requisite:**

#### **Audience:**

#### **Credits:**

3 Credits

#### **Learning Objectives:**

#### **After taking this course students will be able to:**

1. Apply problem solving to societal problems
2. Understand the implementation of public policy
3. Gather information in a variety of ways
4. Use computer programs to analyze quantitative data
5. Communicate effectively in oral and written venues
6. Work efficiently on individual projects
7. Work effectively on team projects

## UNDERGRADUATE COURSE SYLLABUS

8. Gain knowledge of societal problems, causes, and policy in at least one specific problem area

**Bibliography/ Texts/ Supplies – Required:** (Available at SU Bookstore)

- 1) A. Mazur, *Global Social Problems*, 2007.
- 2) J. Warrick. *Black Flags: The Rise of ISIS*, 2016.
- 3) G. Allison, *Destined for War: Can America and China Escape Thucydides’s Trap?* 2017.

**Bibliography/ Texts/ Supplies – Additional:**

Since these problems are closely tied to current events, you need to follow the news of the world, using as our text *The New York Times* online (nytimes.com). Make a regular habit of scanning *The Times* daily.

**Course Requirements and Expectations:**

Your final grade will be mostly based on three exams, equally weighted. I will alter this average as much as one letter grade up or down, depending on your participation in class, including not only wakeful attendance but informed discussion of each week’s assigned reading. (No extra credit projects.) If you are ill or have another good excuse for missing an exam, you may arrange a makeup paper *only if you contact me within one week*. To do well in this course, you should assume 3-5 hours of reading weekly.

**Grading:**

**Assignments:**

Exam 1

Exam 2

Exam 3

Participation

**Total Points / % of Grade**

**Grading Table:**

**Total:** 100 points (100%).

Grades*	Grade points / credit*	Percentage Range	Total Points
A	4.0	93-100	93-100
A-	3.66	90-92	90-92
B+	3.33	87-89	87-89
B	3.0	83-86	83-86
B-	2.66	80-82	80-82
C+	2.33	77-79	77-79
C	2.0	73-76	73-76
C-	1.66	70-72	70-72
D	1.0	60-69	60-69

## UNDERGRADUATE COURSE SYLLABUS

Grades*	Grade points / credit*	Percentage Range	Total Points
F	0	Less than 60	<60

### **University Attendance Policy**

Attendance in classes is expected in all courses at Syracuse University. Students are expected to arrive on campus in time to attend the first meeting of all classes for which they are registered. Students who do not attend classes starting with the first scheduled meeting may be academically withdrawn as not making progress toward degree by failure to attend. Instructors set course-specific policies for absences from scheduled class meetings in their syllabi.

It is a federal requirement that students who do not attend or cease to attend a class to be reported at the time of determination by the faculty. Faculty should use “ESPR” and “MSPR” in Orange Success to alert the Office of the Registrar and the Office of Financial Aid.

Students should also review the university’s religious observance policy and make the required arrangements at the beginning of each semester.

### **Syracuse University Policies:**

Students should review the University’s policies regarding: Diversity and Disability <https://www.syracuse.edu/life/accessibility-diversity/>; the Religious Observances Notification and Policy- [http://supolicies.syr.edu/studs/religious\\_observance.htm](http://supolicies.syr.edu/studs/religious_observance.htm); and

Orange SSuccess - <http://orangesuccess.syr.edu/getting-started-2/>

### **Disability-Related Accommodations:**

If you believe that you need academic adjustments (accommodations) for a disability, please contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), visit the ODS website– <http://disabilityservices.syr.edu>, located in Room 309 of 804 University Avenue, or call (315) 443-4498 or TDD: (315) 443-1371 for an appointment to discuss your needs and the process for requesting academic adjustments. ODS is responsible for coordinating disability-related academic adjustments and will issue students with documented Disabilities Accommodation Authorization Letters, as appropriate. Since academic adjustments may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact ODS as soon as possible.

### **Academic Integrity Policy:**

Syracuse University’s Academic Integrity Policy reflects the high value that we, as a university community, place on honesty in academic work. The policy defines our expectations for academic honesty and holds students accountable for the integrity of all work they submit. Students should understand that it is their responsibility to learn about course-specific expectations, as well as about university-wide academic integrity expectations. The policy governs appropriate citation and use of

## UNDERGRADUATE COURSE SYLLABUS

sources, the integrity of work submitted in exams and assignments, and the veracity of signatures on attendance sheets and other verification of participation in class activities. The policy also prohibits students from submitting the same work in more than one class without receiving written authorization in advance from both instructors. Under the policy, students found in violation are subject to grade sanctions determined by the course instructor and non-grade sanctions determined by the School or College where the course is offered as described in the Violation and Sanction Classification Rubric. SU students are required to read an online summary of the University's academic integrity expectations and provide an electronic signature agreeing to abide by them twice a year during pre-term check-in on MySlice. For more information and the complete policy, see the [Academic Integrity Policy](#).

### **Course Schedule: Assignment Due Dates**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>To be read</b>
Aug 28	Holy Wars	
Sept 4	Terrorism	Warrick, Prologue and Book I
Sept 11	Terrorism	" Book II
Sept 18	Terrorism	" Book III and Epilogue
Sept 25	<b>Exam 1</b>	GSP, Chap. 1
Oct 2	Two Great Transformations	GSP, Chaps. 2-3
Oct 9	USSR and Aftermath	GSP, Chap. 4
Oct 16	War and Ethnic Conflict	GSP, Chap. 5
Oct 23	Inequality and Population	GSP, Chaps. 6-7
Oct 30	Resources and Environment	GSP, Chaps. 8-9
Nov 6	<b>Exam 2</b>	
Nov 13	China vs. the United States??	Allison, pp. vii-24
Nov 20	<b>--Thanksgiving Break --</b>	
Nov 27	China vs. the United States??	Allison, pp. 107-184
Dec 4	<b>Exam 3</b>	Allison, pp. 187-240