

PPE 3041- GLOBAL POLITICS: A NEW PERSPECTIVE

Dr. Herman T. Salton
Associate Professor of Politics, Philosophy and Economics (PPE)

1. ABOUT THE PROFESSOR

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Office: H603 (H Bldg, 6th Floor)
Office Hours: Mon & Wed, 11am-1pm
Classes: Mon & Wed, 4.30pm-5.50pm
Classroom: H402

Qualifications: JD (Trento), PhD Law (Auckland), MPhil IR (Oxford), PhD IR (Wales)
Areas of Expertise: Global Politics
International Organizations (especially the United Nations)
Global History
Diplomacy
International Law

Profile: Herman Tutehau Salton was educated at the universities of Trento, Auckland, Oxford and Wales. A Senior Fellow at the Ralph Bunche Institute, City University of New York (CUNY), he was also a visiting scholar at Sciences-Po, Paris (France) and TUJ, Tokyo (Japan); a human rights officer at the Icelandic Human Rights Centre, Reykjavík (Iceland); and an Associate with the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, United Nations Headquarters, New York (USA). He publishes in the areas of international politics, international law, global history and human rights, and his latest book, *Dangerous Diplomacy*, was published by Oxford University Press (OUP) in August 2017. He is fluent in English, French, Italian and Spanish.

2. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to an unconventional way of thinking about world politics. Structured around a number of critical questions that have been puzzling humans for centuries, the course deals with familiar topics which continue to affect our global polity—such as conflict, gender, reconciliation, violence, nationalism, terrorism, post-colonialism, ethnicity, and others—but takes an original approach to them. By integrating theory and history while drawing on a wide range of disciplines such as international relations, sociology, peace studies, post-colonial studies, and others, each class will address a critical question through an illustrative example and will assess the responses that we, as a global collectivity, are giving to that question: why do people identify with nations? Do colonialism and slavery belong to the past? Why are some people better off than others? Why does global politics often turn to violence? Who has rights? Why is the world divided territorially? How do religious beliefs affect politics? By combining theory and practice—and by approaching the field of global politics through a Socratic method rather than thematically—this innovative and highly interdisciplinary course aims to show students both the complexity and the relevance of contemporary global politics.

3. LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Understand the key concepts associated with global politics;
- Understand the rationale, purpose and context in which such concepts developed;
- Appreciate the difference between international relations and global politics;
- Appreciate the importance of issues such as climate change, migration, inequality, resistance;
- Place global political issues in the context of colonialism, nationalism, capitalism and statehood;
- Understand the difference between the 'victors' and the 'losers' of globalization;
- Develop an ability to put forward a balanced argument on a given issue of global politics;
- Appreciate the importance of critically evaluating global politics issues.

4. CLASS SCHEDULE

WEEK 1: INTRODUCTIONS

- Mon 28 Aug Introductions (I): the Course, the Professor and the Class
Readings: TBA
- Wed 30 Aug Introductions (II): Why Does Global Politics Matter?
Readings: Preface (pp.xxiii to xxviii) and Chapter 1 (pp.1-19)
Further Readings: TBA

WEEK 2: THINKING & LANGUAGE IN GLOBAL POLITICS

- Mon 4 Sept 'HOW DO WE BEGIN TO THINK ABOUT THE WORLD?'
Topic: Thinking about the World
Case Study: Torture and the Ticking-Bomb Scenario
Readings: Chapter 2 (pp.20-37)
Further Readings: TBA
- Wed 6 Sept 'WHO DO WE THINK WE ARE?'
Topic: The Use of Narratives in Global Politics
Case Study: The US Feminist Movement
Readings: Chapter 5 (pp.85-107)
Further Readings: TBA

WEEK 3: RELIGION & RESISTANCE IN GLOBAL POLITICS

- Mon 11 Sep 'HOW DO RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AFFECT POLITICS?'
Topic: The Role of Religion in Today's World
Case Study: Islamic States and Movements
Readings: Chapter 6 (pp.108-131)
Further Readings: TBA
- Wed 13 Sep 'WHY DO WE OBEY?'
Topic: Obedience, Resistance and Force
Case Study: The Revolutions of 1989
Readings: Chapter 7 (pp.132-153)
Further Readings: TBA

WEEK 4: THE ROLE OF INFORMATION & THE INTERNET IN GLOBAL POLITICS

- Mon 18 Sep 'HOW DO WE FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE WORLD?'
Topic: The Role of Information on Global Politics
Case Study: Information Bias and War
Readings: Chapter 8 (pp.154-175)
Further Readings: TBA

Wed 20 Sep 'HOW DOES THE INTERNET MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD?'
Topic: The Internet in Global Politics
Case Study: The Internet & the Arab Spring
Readings: Chapter 9 (pp.176-199)
Further Readings: TBA

WEEK 5: MIGRATION & TERRITORIALITY IN GLOBAL POLITICS

Mon 25 Sep 'WHY IS PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT RESTRICTED?'
Topic: Migration and Border Crossings
Case Study: The US-Mexico Border
Readings: Chapter 10 (pp.200-219)
Further Readings: TBA

Wed 27 Sep 'WHY IS THE WORLD DIVIDED TERRITORIALLY?'
Topic: Forms of Political and Geographical Organization
Case Study: Territoriality in Europe
Readings: Chapter 11 (pp.220-244)
Further Readings: TBA

WEEK 6: REVISIONS + FIRST ASSIGNMENT (ESSAY)

Mon 2 Oct Revisions and Preparation for Assignment
Readings: TBA
Further Readings: TBA

Wed 4 Oct First Assignment (Essay) Due
Readings: TBA
Further Readings: TBA

WEEK 7: NATIONAL IDENTITY & NATION-STATE IN GLOBAL POLITICS

Mon 9 Oct 'HOW DO WE COME TO IDENTIFY WITH NATIONS?'
Topic: National Identity
Case Study: The Chinese Nation
Readings: Chapter 12 (pp.245-268)
Further Readings: TBA

Wed 11 Oct 'DOES THE NATION-STATE WORK?'
Topic: States, Nations and Allegiance
Case Study: The Critics of the Nation-State
Readings: Chapter 13 (pp.269-288)

~ FALL BREAK: Sun 15 to Thu 19 October ~

WEEK 8: DEMOCRACY & COLONIALISM (I)

Mon 23 Oct 'IS DEMOCRACY A GOOD IDEA?'
Topic: Democracy in Global Politics
Case Study: Democracy in Argentina
Readings: Chapter 14 (pp.288-313)
Further Readings: TBA

Wed 25 Oct 'DOES COLONIALISM BELONG TO THE PAST?'
Topic: Slavery Old and New
Case Study: Colonialism in Ivory Coast
Readings: Chapter 15 (pp.314-337)
Further Readings: TBA

WEEK 9: COLONIALISM (II) & THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

- Mon 30 Oct 'HOW DOES COLONIALISM WORK?'
Topic: Colonialism and Under-Development
Case Study: India and Britain
Readings: Chapter 16 (pp.338-362)
Further Readings: TBA
- Wed 1 Nov 'HOW IS THE WORLD ORGANIZED ECONOMICALLY?'
Topic: Global Political Economy
Case Study: Formal and Informal Work
Readings: Chapter 17 (pp.363-384)
Further Readings: TBA

WEEK 10: INEQUALITY & POVERTY IN GLOBAL POLITICS

- Mon 6 Nov 'WHY ARE SOME PEOPLE BETTER OFF THAN OTHERS?'
Topic: Sources of Inequality
Case Study: Inequality and Neoliberalism
Readings: Chapter 19 (pp.405-428)
Further Readings: TBA
- Wed 8 Nov 'HOW CAN WE END POVERTY?'
Topic: The Global Poor
Case Study: Microfinance in South Asia
Readings: Chapter 20 (pp.429-449)
Further Readings: TBA

WEEK 11: REVISIONS + SECOND ASSIGNMENT (CLASS DEBATE)

- Mon 13 Nov Revisions & Preparation for Second Assignment (Class Debate)
Readings: TBA
Further Readings: TBA
- Wed 15 Nov Second Assignment: Class Debate
Readings: Chapter TBA
Further Readings: TBA

WEEK 12: MISSIONARIES & VIOLENCE IN GLOBAL POLITICS (I)

- Mon 20 Nov 'WHY DO SOME PEOPLE THINK THEY KNOW WHAT IS GOOD FOR OTHERS?'
Topic: Giving and Receiving in Global Politics
Case Study: Early Christian Missionaries
Readings: Chapter 21 (pp.450-471)
Further Readings: TBA
- Wed 22 Nov 'WHY DOES POLITICS TURN TO VIOLENCE?'
Topic: Mass Killings
Case Study: Killing in Wartime
Readings: Chapter 22 (pp.472-495)
Further Readings: TBA

WEEK 13: VIOLENCE & RIGHTS IN GLOBAL POLITICS

- Mon 27 Nov 'WHAT COUNTS AS VIOLENCE?'
Topic: What is Violence and What Isn't?
Case Study: The War on Terror
Readings: Chapter 23 (pp.496-518)
Further Readings: TBA

Wed 29 Nov 'WHO HAS RIGHTS IN TODAY'S WORLD?'
Topic: Whose Rights?
Case Study: The French Headscarf Ban
Readings: Chapter 27 (pp.590-609)
Further Readings: TBA

WEEK 14: REVISIONS + FINAL ASSIGNMENT (FINAL ESSAY)

Mon 4 Dec Revisions & Preparation for Final Essay
Readings: TBA
Further Readings: TBA

Wed 6 Dec Final Essay (in class)
Readings: TBA
Further Readings: TBA

WEEK 15: INTERVENTION & CONFLICT IN GLOBAL POLITICS

Mon 11 Dec 'HOW CAN WE STOP PEOPLE HARMING OTHERS?'
Topic: Intervening for Humanity
Case Study: Saving Timor-Leste
Readings: Chapter 25 (pp.538-563)
Further Readings: TBA

Wed 13 Dec 'WHAT CAN WE DO TO CHANGE THE WORLD?'
Topic: Changing What's Wrong with the World
Case Study: The Iraq War
Readings: Chapter 28 (pp.610-628)
Further Readings: TBA

5. CLASS FORMAT

The course involves a mixture of lectures and discussions. All classes will be highly interactive: in my view, the role of the teacher is not to offer the right answers but to ask probing questions, especially in a course like this which deals with an exceptionally wide range of topics. So it will not be enough for you to come to class: you will need to be proactive and participate in the discussion. Naturally some of you will be shy than others, which is fine (the best students are not necessarily the most talkative). But you do need to interact with myself and with your peers.

Some of the topics and issues discussed in this course are highly contested, and some of you will have strong views about them. Others will find the materials entirely alien. Both situations are normal: global politics is a controversial concept, especially when done through questions and answers. Yet this is also why I expect you to come to class **after** having done **all** the readings and ready to ask questions about concepts that are unclear to you. In my classes, I make a conscious effort to invite discussion, so I will raise provocative questions and you should try to answer them.

During our discussions, it is imperative that you interact respectfully with your peers. As we will be covering topics for which several interpretations are possible, it is important that you understand that we all come to the class with different life experiences which shape our beliefs and different levels of prior exposure to the ideas and events discussed in this class. I will thus expect—and will not condone anything other than—an attitude of collegial respect.

6. COURSE PACK

Most of the required readings in the course pack are taken from this book:

Jenny Edkins and Maja Zehfuss
Global Politics: A New Introduction
London & New York: Routledge, 2014

Although this is an excellent book, it adopts a new—and largely untested—approach to global politics that needs some time to get accustomed to. A course pack with the readings will be distributed to you in Week 1, while additional readings and materials (including audio-visual materials) will be supplied prior to each class.

7. ASSESSMENT

- 1) ESSAY (20%)
You will be asked to write a 1,500-word essay on one of the issues covered in the course. Guidance for the preparation and more detailed information will be given closer to the date.
Date: Wed, 4 October 2017
- 2) CLASS DEBATE (20%)
During this in-class event, you will be divided into groups. Each group will be assigned a topic and will be given time to research it. In the second part of the exercise, each member of each group will explain a specific trait of their assigned topic. Your group, assigned topic and further information will be given closer to the date.
Date: Wed, 15 November 2017 (in class)
- 3) FINAL ESSAY (40%)
This in-class essay will test your knowledge of the issues covered in the course. You will be given a choice of ten essay questions, of which you will be asked to choose two. This is a pre-seen assessment, so the ten selected questions from which you can choose two will be emailed to you 24 hours before the event.
Date: Wed, 6 December 2017 (in class)
- 4) PARTICIPATION (20%)
Your participation grade will depend on the regularity of your attendance, on your punctuality, and on your contribution to class debate. Unjustified absences will result in penalties as per AUW's policy. Late arrivals, chatting, texting or sleeping in class will be HEAVILY penalized. Students arriving more than 15 minutes late will not be allowed into the classroom.
Date: Your performance will be monitored from Week 2, but your participation grade will be communicated to you by early December.

8. KEY DATES

<i>Written Note:</i>	Wed, 4 October 2017
<i>Class Debate:</i>	Wed, 15 November 2017
<i>Final Essay:</i>	Wed, 6 December 2017
<i>Fall Break:</i>	Sun 15 to Thu 19 Oct 2017
<i>Participation & Attendance:</i>	Monitored from Week 2

9. GRADING SCALE

97 to 100 = A+	87-89 = B+	77-79 = C+	67-69 = D+
93-96 = A	83-86 = B	73-76 = C	63-66 = D
90-92 = A-	80-82 = B-	70-72 = C-	60-62 = D-
			< 60 = F (Fail)

Important: Grades matter and you should strive to obtain the best possible grade, but the way you study is even more critical. In this course, factual knowledge is essential but insufficient; critical thinking is what will make the difference in terms of marks and—more importantly—in terms of your development. Consequently, the mere memorization of facts will not take you far—only the critical assessment of them will. What I am interested in is *your own* approach to a problem. However, you will only be able to acquire this analytical capacity if you do the readings **before** coming to class and if you participate in it. Remember: analytical reasoning without facts is impossible, but facts without any analytical framework are useless! Both are needed.

10. PLAGIARISM

Academic honesty is critically important and is expected of all of you at all times. For your information, definitions of and policies about academic honesty are detailed in the AUW hand-out. Please read *carefully* the section on academic integrity on pages 13-16. Violations of academic honesty will result in failing grades for assignments and/or the entire course.

11. CLASS ETIQUETTE

My assumption will be that each student in this class is motivated, intelligent and considerate of the opinions of others, and my expectations of you reflect this assumption. I would like to ask you to please come to class on time and participate while you are there. Sometimes circumstances may prevent your timely arrival—in these cases, please enter quietly and sit by the door. If you need to leave early, please sit by the door and leave quietly. If you will frequently need to arrive late or leave early, please speak to me about it. I am committed to starting and ending every class *exactly* on time, so please do not prepare to leave before I have ended class. It is disrupting to your colleagues and to myself. Also, please ensure that you do not read, use mobile devices or sleep in class, nor talk to students around you without good reason. Please also be sure to turn off all electronic devices. I strongly encourage you to stop me during class if you have a question or relevant comment. If you feel uncomfortable talking during class, please approach me after class. It is my job to help you understand the material and I will do whatever I can to make sure that you do.