

# PSPA 101

## Contemporary Issues in World Politics

### Course Description

This course examines the changing world order in the post cold war period by focusing on the global context of modern politics. It gives special attention to relevant issues such as democratization, civil society, ethnic conflict, human rights and the implications of globalization.

### Learning Objectives

By the end of the semester, students are expected to understand the:

- \*Complexity of world politics in a globalized era
- \*Meaning of democratization and its emphasis on pluralism
- \*Nexus between democracy and civil society
- \*Determinants of ethnic conflict
- \*Centrality of human rights in a rapidly changing world order

### Readings

#### **Required**

Brian White et al. eds. *Issues in World Politics*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. London, UK: Palgrave, 2001.

*The Oxford Concise Dictionary of Politics*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 1996.

#### **Recommended**

Tim Dunne and Nicholas J. Wheeler, eds. *Human Rights in Global Politics*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1999.

Peter Calvoocoressi, *World Politics, 1945-2000*, 8<sup>th</sup> ed. Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley, 2000.

### Grading System

Mid-term Examination	30%
Two Essays (15% each)	30%
Final Examination:	40%

### Reading Schedule

Week One: Introduction; Models of power and sovereignty, see <http://www.auburn.edu/~spindcj/teachindex/polweb/class/chap11out.htm>

Week Two: Issues in World Politics; chapter 1

Week Three: States and Statehood; chapter 2

Week Four: Trade, Money and markets; chapter 3

Week Five: Regions and Regionalism; chapter 4

Week Six: Development and Inequality; chapter 5

Week Seven: Arms and Arms Control; chapter 6

Week Eight: Peacekeeping and Humanitarian Intervention; chapter 7

Week Nine: Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict; chapter 8

Week Ten: Religion; chapter 9

Week Eleven: Migration and Refugees; chapter 10

Week Twelve: Environment and Natural Resources; chapter 11

Week Thirteen: Media and Communications Technology; chapter 12

Week Fourteen: Transnational Crime and Corruption; chapter 13

Week Fifteen: Conclusion