**Adult Bridge Program**  
Truman College  
DePaul University  

**Fall 2016**

**International Relations: Weapons, Wars & World in Turmoil**  
Political Science 204

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competencies:</th>
<th>A4, H1C, H2E, H5, and FX</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dates:</td>
<td>Sept. 26, Oct. 3 (Truman)</td>
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<td>Oct. 10, 17, 24, 31</td>
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<td>Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28, Dec. 5, 12 (DePaul -Loop)</td>
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<td>Days:</td>
<td>Mondays</td>
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<td>Time:</td>
<td>5:45 – 9:05 P.M.</td>
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**Teaching – Team**

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**About the Bridge Program**

The Bridge Program is a result of a shared commitment to the success of adult students held by Truman College, Wright College and DePaul University's School for New Learning (SNL). The Bridge Program offers students a unique learning experience that couples the City Colleges of Chicago (CCC) and DePaul resources, allows students an opportunity to experience the university environment at their own pace, and helps adult students transition smoothly to SNL. Bridge classes are team taught by professors from the CCC and SNL. Bridge students receive extensive advising from both institutions. CCC students pay CCC tuition and earn both CCC and DePaul credit hours. *Bridge students need to choose two competencies (SNL students may choose for up to three competencies) by the end of the second week, and tailor the assignments accordingly.* Before selecting competencies, Truman Bridge students need to have the Bridge Advisor at Truman go over previous courses they have taken in order to identify the competencies they would transfer into when “bridging over” to SNL prior courses taken at Truman or other non-SNL colleges.
Course Description:
Study of international relations, analysis of international behavior, role of the nation-state and international organizations; factors underlying the development, character and application of foreign policy; war and peace; major social and political forces at work in the contemporary world system.

Introduction
World politics is making an unpredictable turn and undergoing a historic transition. International relations in the 21st century is more complex and facing more pressing global challenges than in the previous century. For example, certain diseases, natural disasters and terrorism require a global united front. Developing nations, mired in debt, burdened in poverty, plagued by wars and ethnic cleansing, are struggling to come out of the crisis. Today, global interdependence is very real. Events in one region of the world affect other regions in the same or similar ways. Globalization and economic interdependence have made state boundaries less relevant and have undermined old concepts of sovereignty. Overpopulation, deforestation, desertification, pollution, are some of the major environmental factors that are shaping the planet. The Millennium Summit set out ambitious goals for the world: to reduce poverty, fight disease, promote education and create peace and stability in many troubled regions of the globe. We will also focus on ethics in the context of a number of issues and practices in international relations ranging from global inequality, the promotion of human rights, foreign aid, immigration/forced deportation, humanitarian intervention, to terrorism, genocide, war crimes, and the use of torture. Discussions will include the concept of power, international organizations, international law, treaties, root causes and functions of war and the making of foreign policies that have shaped and reshaped the relationships among nations.

Learning / Study Tools:
Students will be engaged in compiling international stories from the Internet and other sources and will share them in class every week. Our sessions will cover some selected important topics and case studies from the textbook and other sources. We believe, using active and collaborative discussion, this course will make the study of international relations easier and interesting. In addition to the required and suggested readings in this course, students will learn from guest speakers who will bring their expertise and experience on issues and events relevant to past and current developments that have directly or indirectly affected the international community. Documentary films will also serve as effective study tools in this class.

Required Textbook:
*International Relations: The Changing Contours of Power*
Donald M. Snow. Eugene Brown
SESSIONS

Week One  Why this course & Course Overview  
 Sept. 26

Week Two  The Study of International Relations  
Oct.  3

Week Three  International Systems  
Oct. 10

Week Four  Historical Evolution of the State System  
Oct. 17

Week Five  The Making of Foreign Policy  
Oct. 24

Week Six  Functions, Origins and Forms of War  
Oct. 31  A System in Transition

Week Seven  The Role of Individuals in the Making of  
Nov. 7  Internationally Significant history - Short Presentation

Week Eight  The New Agenda: Transnational Issues  
Nov. 14

Week Nine  The Future of Diplomacy/Role of  
Nov. 21  International Law and Organizations

Week Ten  The Shape of the Future  
Nov. 28  Final Presentation Preparation

Week Eleven  Concluding Discussion  
Dec.  5  Final Presentation Preparation

Week Twelve  GROUP PRESENTATIONS  
Dec. 12  1ST ROUND
**Attendance and participation in class activities**

Students are expected to attend all sessions for the semester. Class meetings will depend heavily on discussions; therefore, students will need to come prepared to share what they found out from the readings and their research on the discussion topics for the week. Active participation in small/large group discussions and oral presentations are effective tools to build the knowledge base and foundation of international relations. Common courtesy requires the student to be punctual and to stay through the end of class. Missing classes and coming late will impact your final grade. Cell phones must be turned off before class begins, avoid text messaging and visiting Facebook while in class.

**Method of Evaluation:**

Students’ coursework will be evaluated primarily based on various activities including Take-home and In-class assignments. Please note that instructors will read all written work and comment on its strength as well as its area of needed improvement, looking for consistent improvement from week to week. Instructors will pay special attention to how regularly and carefully students complete assignments. Homework assignments should be submitted on time. Late assignments will affect your final grade.

The **International Relations Journal (IRJ) of World Affairs** is one of the most important class assignments in this course. Students will be actively engaged in gathering information and keeping track of some of the most significant international events of the past and current world affairs. Students are required to keep a clipping file in a three-ring binder. Have your weekly IRJ organized by due dates or IRJ # and bring the binder to every class. Please read newspapers, magazines, and international web sites and other print media for articles dealing with international events that are closely related to the discussion topic or the chapter in our textbook. We will spend a few minutes at the beginning of each session sharing what we have found during the week. Please follow the format provided in class and when making comments, remember to combine the main points of the article with your personal thoughts, reaction, views...

**Grading**

- Reflection paper on the speaker/s 100 points
- Short Paper 150
- IR Journal (5) 200
- Attendance and Participation 250
- Oral Presentation 300

------------------------------ 1000 points
**Course Objectives**

- Demonstrate the capacity to work independently and collaboratively.
- Produce proficient written work
- Ability to gather, interpret and analyze data and various problem solving approaches in social sciences.
- Exhibit effective interpersonal skills & communicate effectively in written and oral forms.
- Demonstrate the ability to think critically, and logically about international relations.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of the class, students should be able to:

- Integrate and apply various theoretical approaches to current international situations and issues.
- Learn how key historical events and international institutions have helped shape the world today.
- Discuss global social justice issues in a knowledgeable fashion.
- Develop informed opinions on basic aspects of international relations
- Improve critical thinking skills to better evaluate scholarly arguments on international relations.
- Obtain a greater understanding of different regions of the world and important factual information necessary for analysis of international politics.
- To stimulate students to participate actively as engaged global citizens
- Demonstrate the ability to exhibit ethical and social responsibility in a global community.

**Plagiarism** is a major form of academic dishonesty involving the presentation of the work of another as one's own. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to paraphrasing of another's work or ideas, direct copying of any source such as written and verbal material, computer files, audio disks, video programs or musical scores, whether published or unpublished, in whole or part, without proper acknowledgement.