



University of Michigan

—◆交大密西根学院◆—

UM-SJTU Joint Institute



Shanghai Jiao Tong University

## Course Profile

Degree Program:

- ECE-Electrical & Computer Engineering
- ME -Mechanical Engineering
- General Courses for Both ECE & ME Degree Programs

Course Name:

### Introduction to World Politics

Course Code: VR160

Course Credits: 4

Course Category:  Required  Elective

Terms Offered:

- Fall 2014-2015
- Spring 2014-2015
- Summer 2014-2015

Course Pre/Co-requisites: None

Instructor:

Name: Dr. Sam Ro  
Email: [soong-chul.ro@sjtu.edu.cn](mailto:soong-chul.ro@sjtu.edu.cn)  
Room: Room 411, UM-SJTU Joint Institute  
Office Hours: Tuesday 14.30-17.00; Thursday 14.30-17.00

Teaching Assistant:

Name: Ms. Zhaoyun Xiong  
Email: [xiong\\_tt\\_jennyb@126.com](mailto:xiong_tt_jennyb@126.com)  
Office Hours: TBA

Class Time and Location:

Tuesday 12.10-13.50 Dong Xia Yuan 301  
Thursday 18.20-20.50 Dong Xia Yuan 301



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## Textbook:

Kegley, Charles, W. Jr. and Gregory A. Raymond. *The Global Future: A Brief Introduction to World Politics*. (4<sup>th</sup> edition). MA: Wadsworth, 2012

*There is an online companion website where you can find additional materials as well as flashcards and quizzes. These will be very helpful for your learning:*

[http://www.cengage.com/cgi-wadsworth/course\\_products\\_wp.pl?fid=M20bI&product\\_isbn\\_issn=9780495569275](http://www.cengage.com/cgi-wadsworth/course_products_wp.pl?fid=M20bI&product_isbn_issn=9780495569275)

## Internet Resources:

### Online News:

*For the successful completion of the course, it is very important to keep track of international news and apply what you have learned in the class to the cases. Below are a few examples.*

BBC – News and Podcasts: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>; <http://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts>

National Public Radio: <http://www.npr.org/sections/world/>

CNN World News: <http://www.cnn.com/WORLD/index.html>

China.org: <http://china.org.cn/world/index.htm>

The Economist: <http://www.economist.com/index.html>

### SJTU Electronic Resources

*In addition, students are highly recommended to use SJTU library's databases (listed in [http://en.lib.sjtu.edu.cn/list.do?articleType\\_id=155](http://en.lib.sjtu.edu.cn/list.do?articleType_id=155)). Journal and magazine articles available through *Cambridge Journals Online*, *EBSCO – Academic Source Complete (ASC)*, *JSTOR* in this list will be especially useful.*



### Other web sites:

Foreign Affairs: <http://www.foreignaffairs.org>

Foreign Policy: <http://www.foreignpolicy.com>

Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI): <http://www.sipri.org/>

Chatham House: <http://www.chathamhouse.org/>

Global Policy Forum: <http://www.globalpolicy.org>

\* Anonymous sources, including Wikipedia, may be helpful at the start but students are required to trace the sources of information found in such internet websites and evaluate the quality of information in their final analysis.



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## Grading Policy:

<b>Final Exam</b> (Week 14, date tba.)	20%
<b>In-class quizzes</b> (throughout the semester)	20%
<b>Presentation and Participation</b> (throughout the semester)	30%

Students will make a presentation (20 minutes) of their own research projects (see topics below) between week 8 and week 11. The assessment is based on individual presentation (15%) and average of your individual contribution to all discussions (15%). See the table below for the rubrics.

<b>Term Paper</b> (1,500-3,000 words, submission by week 12)	30%
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Each student will choose **one particular issue** from current (or recent) international news and write an essay on one of the topics listed further below. Students **must see the instructor** for consultation regarding the topic and sources **before the submission of the first draft**.

**First Draft (submission by week 4) 5%**

First draft should contain brief introduction to the topic, preliminary research showing structure of main arguments and related concepts or theories from textbook.

It should be written in full sentences (up to 200 words but not in bullet points), and contain at least one citation. You should also include a **two-page list of relevant sources** to be consulted found in online newspapers and journals (does not count towards word limit).

**Completed Essay (submission by week 8) 25%**

Please remember to include a **title page** with the **title of the essay** and **your name** and student **id** number. The work should contain introduction and conclusion as well as **in-text citations** and a **list of references**.

**Late submission** will result in 5% deduction per day.



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### ***Topics for term paper and presentation:***

*Discuss one of the topics below in relation to a particular issue from current (or recent) international news.*

- 1) Identify realist or liberal solutions being suggested to the issue and discuss: To what extent is one approach better than the other?
- 2) Identify positions of various actors involved in the issue: discuss who has the most power to influence the issue for the better and what are the difficulties?
- 3) Discuss the foreign policy process of a country in detail in relation to the issue. Who are involved in making foreign policies of a country? – Is the process rational?
- 4) Will the future be ‘uni-’, ‘multi-’ or ‘bi- polar’? Discuss in relation to a particular sub-system of the globe.
- 5) To what extent is the poverty in a Global South country an international issue?
- 6) Can NGOs (or IGOs) or international laws and institutions play significant role in resolving issues in international relations?
- 7) In which part of the world is there a likelihood of a war between countries? Explain conditions under which such a war will happen.
- 8) Does free-trade benefit everyone?



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**Rubrics**

**Term paper and presentation:**

A good essay (or presentation) contains the student’s own research and independent analysis based on empirically verifiable facts.

Grades	Description	Marks
A+	Qualifies for A and, in addition, shows independent judgment, imaginative approaches, or outstanding use of primary sources.	96-100
A	Both relevant facts and arguments are visible and the facts support arguments in coherent manner. Arguments are balanced showing comprehensive understanding of the topic and research.	87-95 A0 90-95 A- 87-89
B	Both relevant facts and arguments are visible but they fail to support each other in coherent manner. The work needs more comprehensive research to present balanced arguments. Research or presentation of arguments follows other source rather than student’s own argument.	77-86 B+ 84-86 B0 80-83 B- 77-79
C	Either relevant facts or arguments are missing. Severely unbalanced or prejudiced and often contains self-contradiction. Under researched and the organisation relies on a couple of readings.	67-76 C+ 74-76 C0 70-73 C- 67-69
D	Few relevant facts or arguments visible and organised in a disjointed manner.	50-66
F	Lacks both facts and arguments	0-50

**Participation (average of all presentation/participation):**

A	Active and enthusiastic participation with relevant comments that show signs of reading or careful consideration	87-100
B	Active participation with relevant comments	77-86
C	Reluctant participation with barely relevant comments	67-76
D	No participation	50-66
F	Not present	0



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## Academic Integrity:

All students in the class are presumed to be decent, honourable and bound by the Honour Code of the Joint Institute (visit <http://umji.sjtu.edu.cn/honorcode> for more details)

*Plagiarism* is a very serious offence and will not be tolerated under any circumstances. You must appropriately acknowledge your use of others' works. Putting a list of references at the end of your paper is not enough: your essay must contain in-text citations each time you quote information, results of research, or arguments that you took from other sources. If you are in doubt as to the right way of referencing, consult the instructor BEFORE the submission, NOT after.

In addition, any form of cheating in exam or in preparation of assignments will result in scoring 0 for the exam or assignment and could lead to further disciplinary actions.

## Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the concepts and theoretical frameworks that help understanding various issues in international relations. It begins with an introduction to various theoretical positions on international relations. Then students will examine decision making process involving individual actors, nation states with different powers and Inter Governmental Organizations (IGOs). The third part of the course focuses on the issues of international security such as arms control, bilateral and multilateral negotiations, collective defense, peacekeeping and humanitarian intervention; and the fourth part introduces issues of globalization including trade, poverty and inequality, population and environment.



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**VR160 Teaching Schedule (Fall 2014)**

Week	date	Tuesday, 12.10-13.50 Dong Xia Yuan 301	Date	Thursday, 18.20-20.50 Dong Xia Yuan 301	
1	16	Introduction to the course	18	<b>Chapter 1 – Framework for analysis</b>	
2	23	<b>Chapter 1 – Framework for analysis</b>	25	<b>Chapter 2 – Theories: Realism, Liberalism and Constructivism</b>	
3	30	<i>Class Discussion – research topics</i>	Oct 2	<i>Holiday</i>	
4	7	<i>Holiday</i>	9	<b>Chapter 3 – Foreign policy decision making</b>	<b>First Draft Submission</b>
5	14	<b>Chapter 4 – Great-Powers</b>	16	<b>Chapter 4 – Great-Powers</b>	
6	21	<b>Chapter 5 – Rich and Poor</b>	23	<b>Chapter 5 – Rich and Poor</b>	
7	28	<b>Chapter 6 Nonstate Actors</b>	30	<b>Chapter 6 Nonstate Actors</b>	
8	Nov. 4	<i>Presentation and Discussion 1</i>	6	<b>Chapter 7 – Armed Conflicts</b>	
9	11	<i>Presentation and Discussion 2</i>	13	<b>Chapter 8 – Military Power</b>	
10	18	<i>Presentation and Discussion 3</i>	20	<b>Chapter 9 – Realist Paths</b>	
11	25	<i>Presentation and Discussion 4</i>	27	<b>Chapter 10 – Liberal, Constructivist Paths</b>	
12	Dec 2	<b>Chapter 11 – Globalisation</b>	4	<b>Chapter 12 – International Trade</b>	<b>Final Essay Submission</b>
13	9	<b>Chapter 12 – International Trade</b>	10	<i>Review Class</i>	
14	tba	<b>Final Exam</b>			