Welcome to Governments of the World distance learning course. I am Professor Woods and the teacher assistant is Mr. Cardin. Our aim is to make this online course interesting, engaging, and a fruitful learning experience.

Email Protocol: Emails should begin Dear Professor Woods, or Mr. Woods. For the T.A., it should be Sir or Mr. Cardin. Don’t start an email with “Hey, or no formal salutations at all.” Absent a minimal of protocol emails will be ignored!

Office hours: only via email - Professor Woods, dwoods2@purdue.edu
Teaching Assistant P.R. Cardin, prcardin@purdue.edu

All students will be addressed by me and the T.A. as Sir or Madame. Once last names are known, Mr. Jones or Miss Janeway, for example, may be used as well.

Course Description

The course will introduce students to (1) political concepts and theories; (2) contemporary political issues around the globe; (3) the politics of France, China, Russia and Nigeria.

In summary, students will get from the course

- Introduction to theories and concepts used in political analysis
- theories that explain politics and political change
- ethnicity and nationalism
- party systems, electoral systems, interest groups, and social movement
- presidential and parliamentary systems
- politics in France, China, Russia and Nigeria, including their
- political culture and socio-political divisions
- political institutions
Learning Objectives and Acquired Skills

By the end of the course students should have obtained

- a good vocabulary of political science terms and concepts
- a good basis to analyze political and social issues
- some ability to analyze politics and identify bases of social and political conflicts in different political systems
- some comparative understanding of political differences between France, China, Russia and Nigeria
- the ability write short analytical essays analyzing various aspects of politics in these countries
- enhanced critical thinking and writing skills

Course Organization, Assignments, and Grading

Stating the obvious: **This is an online course.** Thus, it is organized differently from a classroom course. It is based on the principle of interactive learning. There are no formal lectures. The interactive learning takes place within learning modules. Within these modules, there are structured lesson plans and specified learning objectives. As you progress in the modules, you will be given an opportunity to assess what you have learned and how well you have grasped the material. Learning exercises follow each learning objective in each module. At the end of each learning module, there is a lessons learned, points earned assessment. The same questions you answer in the learning exercises are on learning assessment.

Important Information

1. You are given **two** chances (duration 30 minutes for each attempt that auto submits at the 30 minute point) to take the learning exercises.
2. You do not get any earned points towards your grade for the learning exercises; the points you see only indicate whether or not you answered the questions correctly.

3. You can take the lessons learned, points earned assessment only once; however, you will have 90 minutes to finish the assessment once you start (the clock does not stop if you decide to leave the exam, however).

4. It is strongly recommended that you submit the lessons learned, points earned at the end of each module. In any case, the final deadline for submitting the lessons learned, points earned assessments is divided into two periods. In the first period, you can submit the first four lessons learned, points earned assessments at anytime up to the cut off time and date (see course schedule). In the second period, you can submit the next four lessons learned, points earned assessments anytime up to the cut off time and date. Once the deadline has passed, lessons learned, points earned assessments will not be accepted or graded. This is an ironclad policy: No exceptions!!!

In addition to the lessons learned, points earned assessments, there are four short analytical essays (2 pages) and a final paper. These essays are structured in a specific manner. I have written for each analytical essay the opening paragraph and part of the conclusion. You must use verbatim (i.e., word for word) those paragraphs in your essay. Failure to do so will result in a no passing grade! Your task is to fill in the substantive parts of the essay. The four short analytical essays will count for 5 points each and the final paper will count for 10 points. It is expected that the essays will be well written and referenced. The four short analytical essays are designed to help you develop and sharpen your writing and analytical skills over the course of the second half of the semester. We expect to see these enhanced skills displayed in the final paper. Sloppy,
plagiarized, and sub-par college level papers will receive no points!

Hints on writing a quality college level paper

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yhv12rQngkg

Note: There are no essay assignments in the first four learning modules. Also, all essays are automatically checked for plagiarism.

Note: It is your responsibility to keep track of time zone. We are in the Eastern Time Zone of the United States.

Some friendly advice: set a schedule with the lesson plans and stick to it! Taking an online course require self-motivation and sticking to a learning schedule. I have developed detailed lesson plans and a course schedule. My advice is that you adapt it to your schedule. The deadline for when things are due is ironclad. Late assignments will not be accepted under any circumstances! The course is set up in a way that gives you ample time to do the assignments.

Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>100 plus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>95-99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>85-87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>78-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74-77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>65-67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>68-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The eight lessons learned points earned assessments count for 70 percent of your grade. The four short analytical essays count for 20 percent of your grade and a final 5 page essay will count for the 10 percent of your grade for a total of 100 points.

The course book is a customized ebook. It is only available online

Textbook: Governments of the World (Paulette Kurzer)
1. Go to http://create.mheducation.com/shop/

Key university dates

- Monday August 24 - Classes start
- Monday 31 Last day to register without a late fee
- Monday September 7 Last day to cancel a course assignment without it appearing on record; however, it is LABOR DAY (No Classes)
- Monday 21 Last day to withdraw a course with a grade of W or to add/modify a course with instructor and advisor signature
- Monday-Tuesday October 12-13 OCTOBER BREAK
- Wednesday October 28 Last day to withdraw from a course with a W or WF grade
- Wed-Sat 25-28 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
- Sat. December 12 Classes End

University Policies

Students are encouraged to refer to Purdue's student guide for academic integrity (http://www.purdue.edu/odos/aboutodos/academicintegrity.php)

Cheating will be punished with a failing grade in the class and a report to the Dean of Students.

Students are encouraged to refer to Purdue's student guide for academic integrity

Although in this distance course there is no attendance requirement, students are expected to keep up to date with all assignments.

To reiterate, late assignments will not be graded. Organize your time appropriately to meet the required deadlines for exams, course activities, and essays.

It is your responsibility to meet the deadlines in the syllabus. Thus, it is best to undertake the assignments as soon as you are prepared in order to leave yourself extra time to cover situations in which you may face an illness or other emergency.