

Political Science 20: World Politics (Spring 2013, Professor Robert Trager)
(Tentative) Section Syllabus

TA: Andre Comandon
Email: acomandon@ucla.edu
Office: Bunche 3275

Office hrs: Bunche 3288
Tu. 2-3 and Fr 1-2
(& by appointment)

Sections: D: Th. 3-3:50 MS 6201
G: Th. 5-5:50 Bunche 2178
L: Fr. 12-12:50 Bunche 3157

Dates to remember:

Midterm: Tuesday, May 7

Final Exam: Wednesday, June 12, 11:30am-2:30pm

Section Objectives:

The purpose of sections is to *critically* engage students with weekly topics in world politics. We will discuss issues based on course readings and material relevant to the policy briefs, as well as review topics and key concepts from the lectures. This means that students are expected to have finished all the required readings for each week *before* coming to sections. Just showing up is not enough and leads to tedious sections for you and I. No one wants to waste that hour, but it's up to you to make the most of it.

While your personal views are inevitably part of the discussion, the goal is to use concepts we will be learning about in class to challenge, question, explore and expand on every topic we will cover. You have extensive guidelines in the course syllabus, make use of them! These sections are entirely for your benefit, so if you have any questions or comments about the lecture or readings, please raise them there, more often than not, everyone will benefit.

Policy Briefs:

Hard copies of the 2-3 page (12pt font, 1 inch margins) policy briefs are due at the start of section. Please refer to the class syllabus for the exact due date for each policy brief. While you are encouraged to discuss the topics with your peers, the policy briefs must be written individually and must be your own original work. Use proper citation and take the time to *revise* your paper.

Grading:

Your section grade accounts for 10% of your total course grade; that means that if you don't show up you cannot get an A in the course.

Section attendance is mandatory. I will take attendance through the briefs or, when none is due, by some other means. You should come to each section prepared to actively participate in discussions. Sections are too big for everyone to participate, and I understand that some of you may not be comfortable speaking up. I give you these alternatives to get full credits:

- Come to office hours on a regular basis.
- Use Twitter to post relevant news with short comments and tag @acomandon (make sure I can identify you)
- Participate in virtual office hours (see below)

Office hours and other policies:

- You are strongly encouraged to come to office hours for any questions, concerns, or just to talk about the class material.
- You may also contact me by email and I will do my best to respond within 24 hours (except for weekends).
- If the answer to your question is on the syllabus, or can be found in less than 2 minutes online, I will ignore your email(s).
- In addition to my office hours I will hold virtual office hours in the form of a chat room open to the class. The chat room is accessible through: [my.ucla.edu > community > chat > room: #PS20](https://my.ucla.edu/community/chat/room/#PS20). Times will be announced by email.
- Please be respectful to your peers during discussions. It is important to listen to others and demonstrate respect for ideas that differ from your own, i.e., disagree politely.
- Any form of cheating or plagiarism will not be tolerated and is subject to penalties in accordance with university policies.