CASPER COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Number and Title: POLS 1020, section 01; Issues in Foreign Relations I

Semester/Year: Fall 2006 (Spring 2007 POLS 1030)

Lecture Hours: 3  Lab Hours:  Credit Hours: 3

Class Time: 7-10 pm  Days: TH  Room: AD 171

Instructor: Erich Frankland

Instructor’s Office: AD 175-I  Phone #: 268-2490

E-mail: efrankland@caspercollege.edu

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9:00-10:00am; Tuesday and Thursday 10:00-11:00am, 12:15-1:00pm; if these times and/or days are inconvenient, please make an appointment to see me. In case of an emergency please contact Julie Laib, Division Academic Assistant, in Admin Bldg. 175 or at 268-2368.

Course Description: This yearlong course entails an introduction to the concepts, institutions and issues of contemporary foreign relations from the perspective of the United States. The focal point of the course are group analyses of selected prominent issues in the post Cold War world, which will include extensive research, writing, discussions, and oral presentations of the groups’ findings. Please note this course is 6 credits, POLS 1020 for fall, POLS 1030 for spring.

Statement of Prerequisites: Each student must have completed the course application process before enrolling in this course.

General Objectives: This course is a theoretical and practical survey of the contemporary foreign relations environment and the role(s) of the United States in it. The course will provide an essential foundation of the theories, histories, and approaches that affect foreign relations. This foundation will serve to enhance the research of each group in the spring semester (there will be three groups of five whose members will be randomly selected by the instructor) on the issue of foreign relations that it has selected. The end of the Cold War and the collapse of Soviet bloc communism led many in the West and elsewhere to speculate that a new international order was in the making. This new global environment was viewed as an atmosphere in which the policies and issues of the past were no longer applicable, and that the new issues could easily be resolved through the newly emerging policy institutions and processes. This speculation has since proven erroneous, but the new environment indeed has spawned an array of new problems that have only added to the old ones. This course will selectively explore these issues and what policies can be developed to respond to them.
Specific Objectives: It is expected that completion of this course will assist each student in becoming:

1. more aware of the role of theories, values, histories, and principles involved in the study of Foreign Relations;

2. familiar with the array of actors in contemporary foreign affairs and the various forms of interaction in which they are involved;

3. familiar enough with the tools of professional analysis to understand contemporary foreign relations as well as future possibilities;

4. better able to meet the reading, writing, researching, and speaking demands essential for a college experience;

5. familiar with the professional literature covering American and non-American foreign policy concerns;

6. thoroughly knowledgeable of the primary issues that confront the contemporary foreign relations environment;

7. able to work as part of a collaborative group in developing a professional analysis and presentation of an issue of global concern.

Methodology/Evaluation Criteria:

Examinations (225 points total)- There will be three exams for this semester, which will be equally weighted (75 points each). Each exam will be composed of two parts that will draw from the readings, lectures, and discussion. Part one will contain a selection of short identification or definition questions. Part two will consist of one essay that will require you to integrate the materials learned into a sophisticated response. Each part of the exam will include some choice of questions. These will be take-home exams and your answers may be handwritten or typed.

Participation and Discussion (75 points)- In addition to regular attendance, you are encouraged to participate in class discussion. Also, you will act as a discussion leader (25 points) during the course of the class. Your discussion will center on one of the readings selected from the course texts. You should prepare approximately 3-5 questions for us to discuss after you deliver a brief overview of the reading in question. Please do not come late to class as this disrupts lectures and discussion. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to get the notes for that class session.

Dinners Attendance (25 points)- A major portion of this course is your attendance and participation at the monthly dinners of the Casper Committee on Foreign Relations. Typically, these are on Thursday evenings starting around 6:15pm at the Casper Petroleum Club. The cost of the dinners is covered by B.O.C.E.S.
Reviews (50 points)- You are required to submit a brief review (2-3 typed pages) of two issues (25 points each) taken from a professional journal or magazine. Some noteworthy journals include Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, International Political Science Review, Orbis, and World Politics. Possible magazines include The Economist, U.S. News and World Report, Newsweek, or other weekly/monthly magazine. Please see me if you are planning on using a source other than those listed above. Each review should address the particular issue raised in the article as well as include some analysis and/or criticism. In addition, each review should include a title page and a full bibliographic listing at the start of the review. One review should deal with an issue involving American foreign policy and the other should focus on a non-American foreign policy issue (you may select the order in which you submit these).

Grade Distribution:

Exam #1 75 points  Review #1 25 points
Exam #2 75 points  Review #2 25 points
Exam #3 75 points  Dinners Attendance 25 points
Attendance & Participation (inc. discussion) 75 points

Total of 375 points with grades distributed according to the following: 90-100% A, 80-89% B, 70-79% C, 60-69% D, 59% or less is failing.

Contact the Instructor: Please feel free to stop by during our office/contact hours, or make an appointment to see me. I am willing to discuss the course readings and assignments with you anytime. Please note that excuses for late assignments and missed exams will only be accepted in extreme cases and at the discretion of the instructor.

Committee on Foreign Relations meetings: You are required to attend the monthly dinner meetings of the Casper Committee on Foreign Relations which are held at the Casper Petroleum Club generally on Thursdays at 6:15pm. The presentation from each meeting will be discussed in the following class. Also, remember that the members of the class will attend the national meeting of the American Committees on Foreign Relations in May 2007 in Washington, D.C. All legitimate expenses for this excursion and others associated with this course (CCFR/ACFR membership, CCFR meals, texts, tuition, etc.) are borne by a grant from B.O.C.E.S.

Required Text, Readings, Materials: You will need the following text materials for this class: Additional readings and hand-outs may also be utilized. An additional book, Issues in World Politics, will be distributed in December in anticipation of POLS 1030 in the Spring semester.


**Student Rights and Responsibilities:** Please refer to the Casper College Student Conduct and Judicial Code for information concerning your rights and responsibilities as a Casper College student. Also, any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact me as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunities.

**Course Outline***:

August 31: Introduction and Library Orientation

September 7, 14, 21, 28: Conceptual Background  
Read Packet sections 1 & 2; Jackson articles 1-12

October 5, 12, 19, 26: Historical Context and the New World Order  
Read Packet section 3; Jackson articles 13-27  
Review #1 due October 5  
Exam #1 distributed October 12 (due October 19)

November 2, 9, 16, 30: American Foreign Policy and Key Actors  
Read Packet section 4; Jackson articles 28-36  
Review #2 due November 2  
Exam #2 distributed November 9 (due November 16)

December 7, 14, 21: Other Actors in American Foreign Policy  
Read Packet section 5; Jackson articles 37-42  
Exam #3 distributed December 14 (due December 21)

January-May, 2007: POLS 1030 schedule forthcoming

*This schedule may be modified due to unforeseen circumstances.