CASPER COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Number and Title:  POLS 1030, section 01; Issues in Foreign Relations II

Semester/Year:  Spring 2016

Lecture Hours: 3         Lab Hours:         Credit Hours: 3

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

Instructor:  Erich Frankland

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

E-mail:  efrankland@caspercollege.edu

Office Hours:  Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:00am-11:00am; Tuesday 11:30am-12:30pm, Tuesday and Thursday 1:45pm-2:45pm; if these times and/or days are inconvenient, please make an appointment to see me.  In case of an emergency please contact Crystal Sosalla, School Academic Assistant, in LH 166 or at 268-2368.

Course Description: This is the second semester of the yearlong seminar program, which entails an introduction to the concepts, institutions and issues of contemporary foreign relations from the perspective of the United States.  The focal point of this course is each group’s analysis of a selected prominent issue in the post Cold War world, which will include extensive research, writing, discussions, and oral presentations of each group’s findings.

Statement of Prerequisites: Each student must have completed the course application process before enrolling in this course and have successfully completed POLS 1020.

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 (there will be three groups of four students each 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  This new global environment was viewed as an atmosphere in which the policies and issues of the past were no longer applicable, and that the new issues could easily be resolved through the newly emerging policy institutions and processes.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 (300 points total)- There will be three exams for this semester, which will be equally weighted (100 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. Each exam will be distributed in class one week before it will be due (hence, these are take-home exams).

Participation and Issue Discussions (100 points)- In addition to regular attendance (50 points), you are encouraged to participate in class discussion. Also, you will serve as a discussion leader (50 points) on one of the issues included in the Global Issues reader. For this, you will provide a complete yet concise overview of the issue (5-10 minutes), its significance as an issue of international concern, and generate 3-5 thoughtful questions relating to the issue and its significance. Every student should come prepared for these substantive discussions. In general, 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 (50 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 6:15 pm at the Casper Petroleum Club. The cost of the dinners is covered by Casper College for students.

Research Assignment (150 points)- A primary focus of this course is the development of a substantial research project by each group of students (three groups total of four students each). This project will include the submission of a research proposal (25 points) describing the agreed upon research topic in 1-2 typed pages with 5 significant sources in addition to course materials. This proposal will lead to the completion of the group research paper of 10-12 pages with 10 significant sources in addition to course materials (100 points). Past paper topics have included cyberterrorism, India-Pakistan nuclear tensions, biological warfare, economic effects of globalization, and the impact of education upon women’s rights in the international context. The research assignment will conclude with a 15 minute presentation (maximum) by each group regarding their findings (25 points). The grades assigned for the three-part research assignment will be awarded on a group basis to each individual student in said group.

Participation in ACFR Conference (50 points)- students are expected to attend the annual conference of the American Committees on Foreign Relations (ACFR) in late April in Washington, D.C. and to participate in all of its proceedings and related events. You are encouraged to regard this experience as a fun and educational one that includes you serving as an “ambassador” of the college, the Casper Committee on Foreign Relations, and Wyoming. For those who are unable to attend the conference for approved reasons, your final grade will be calculated without these points. Casper College will bear most of the costs associated with student participation in the conference.

Grade Distribution:

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<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Exam #1</td>
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<td>Exam #2</td>
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<td>Exam #3</td>
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<td>Proposal</td>
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<td>Paper</td>
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<td>Dinners</td>
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<td>Attendance &amp; Participation</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>ACFR Conference</td>
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Total of 650 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 6:15 pm. 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 ACFR in late April 2016 in Washington, D.C. This will include issue panels, State Department briefings, foreign embassy Department reception-presentation, and other events. Most legitimate
expenses for this excursion and others associated with this course (CCFR/ACFR membership, CCFR meals, etc.) are covered by Casper College.

**Required Text, Readings, Materials:** You will need the following text materials for this class: Additional readings and hand-outs may also be utilized.


**Student Rights and Responsibilities:** Please refer to the Casper College Student Handbook for information concerning your rights and responsibilities as a Casper College student. Last date for withdrawal is April 14.

**Chain of Command:** If you have any problems with this class, you should first contact the instructor to attempt to solve the problem. If you are not satisfied with the solution offered by the instructor, you should then take the matter through the appropriate chain of command starting with the Department Chair, the Dean, and lastly the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

**Academic Dishonesty (Cheating & Plagiarism):** Casper College demands intellectual honesty. Proven plagiarism or any form of dishonesty associated with the academic process can result in the offender failing the course in which the offense was committed or expulsion from school. See the Casper College Student Code of Conduct for more information on this topic.

**Official Means of Communication:** Casper College faculty and staff will employ the student’s assigned Casper College e-mail account as a primary method of communication. Students are responsible to check their account regularly.

**ADA Accommodations Policy:** If you need academic accommodations because of a disability, please inform the instructor as soon as possible privately after class or during office hours. To request academic accommodations, students must first consult with the college’s Disability Services Counselor located in the Gateway Building, Room 344, 307-268-2557, bheuer@caspercollege.edu. The Disability Services Counselor is responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students requesting accommodations, determining eligibility for accommodations, and helping students request and use appropriate accommodations.
Course Outline*(this schedule may be modified due to unforeseen circumstances):

January 21 and 28: Globalization and U.S. Foreign Policy
   Read Packet section 6; CQ issues 1-3
   January 18 No classes due to Martin Luther King Jr. Equality Day Holiday
   January 28 speaker on immigration policy

February 4, 11, 18, 25: The World Transformed and Bush Foreign Policy
   Read Packet section 7; CQ issues 4-8
   February 4 Library Refresher
   February 11 speaker on democratization
   Research Paper Proposal due February 18
   Exam #1 distributed February 18 (due February 25)
   February 15 No classes due to Presidents’ Day Holiday

March 3, 10, 24, 31: The Global Context for the Obama Administration
   Read Packet section #8; CQ issues 9-12
   No classes March 14-18 due to Spring Break
   No classes March 25 due to Spring Holiday
   Exam #2 distributed March 24 (due March 31)

April 7, 14, 21, 28: The New Global Security Dilemma & Post-Conference Discussion
   Read Packet section #9, CQ issues 13-16
   At ACFR Conference April 19-23 (tentative)
   Research Paper due April 28

May 5: Group Research Presentations
   Exam #3 distributed May 5 (due May 9)

   There will also be a May CCFR presentation