Course Description:

An analysis of capitalism in the United States, the federal budgetary process, and social policies through economic decisions. (Catawba Catalog)

This course serves as an introduction to the broad literature and concepts on the role and impact of government and politics in economics. The course has several goals:

Goal: To explore how political scientists and economists can utilize both academic disciplines to further understand political behavior, namely through the “rational-choice” and “game-theory” perspectives;

Goal: To become familiar with the conflicting ideas and theories behind government interaction in the economic realm;

Goal: To explore how scholars view the relationship between government institutions and the economy, primarily in the United States governing system;

Goal: To explore the current controversies surrounding the American and international economies as we progress into the 21st Century, namely through issues of “globalization”;

Goal: This course will also be a communication intensive course, designed to improve both your written and oral skills.

The course syllabus provides a general schedule; deviations may be necessary.

Academic Honesty:

All work on all assignments must be your own. Students are expected to be familiar with College guidelines for honest academic conduct, and will be held responsible with appropriate penalties. Cases of suspected plagiarism or other violations of the Honor Code are referred to the College Court without exception.

Grading Policy:

The following will constitute your final grade:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Game Theory Assignment</td>
<td>0.5x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olson Review Paper</td>
<td>1.5x</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Your grade:
There is no “curve” for this course; there are no “extra credit” projects given. In-class work is graded on a 100-point scale, with grades converted to GPA scale (see below). All outside-class assignments are graded based on the “Grading Criteria” sheet (attached) and using the Catawba GPA:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>GPA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When grades are assigned on the 100-point scale, the following ranges apply, and then the GPA score is used for that assignment in computing your final grade:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>GPA</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>De Soto Review Paper</td>
<td>(weighted 1.5x)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Globalization Reaction Papers</td>
<td>(weighted 1x each)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Exam</td>
<td>(weighted 1.5x)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>(weighted 2x)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To calculate your final grade, add up your grades (with appropriate weights), divide by 10, and refer to the chart below for the ranges that grades will be assigned.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>GPA</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>De Soto Review Paper</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Globalization Reaction Papers</td>
<td>3.85</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Exam</td>
<td>3.55</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>3.15</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Outside class assignments are due in the class period as noted on the schedule. Late assignments turned in within 24 hours after the class meeting they were due will have one letter grade deducted from the assignment’s final grade. Assignments due on a Friday and
that are not handed in class will be due by 4 PM on Friday with one letter grade deducted from the final grade; otherwise, the assignment will be a zero. No work will be accepted after the 24 hour late period; the grade will be recorded as a negative one (-1) when the final course grade is computed, to penalize the “not-handing-in” of assignments, rather than the simple “failing” the assignment.

It is the goal of the instructor to hand back graded material within one week of the work being handed in; please do not ask before a week’s time if the instructor has graded the work.

Exams:
Each exam will be based on course lectures, discussions and assigned readings. The exam format will rely heavily on essay questions. Please note the dates of the mid-term and final exams on the schedule. Make-up exams are only given under the most dire of circumstances, and only with documented record (i.e., Health Center form).

A note on the approach of this collegiate class. The textbooks will give students an overview of knowledge that the professor may then discuss further in lecture and discussion. While the material covered in the textbooks will not be necessarily covered in complete detail in class, it is expected that students will have read the material prior to coming to class for that week. Simply because the material is not covered in class does not excuse the student from responsibility for the material on exams.

Grade Appeals:
If you have a question about the grading of a work, I ask that you come in with a written explanation as to the specific area that you have a concern. This requires that you re-read back through your work, write your concern on paper, and then research as to why it should be included in your grade. Only then should you come to me and we can talk about your work. I am always available to discuss problems or difficulties, but I do not go for the “well, I had this and you didn’t count it” logic.

Textbooks:
The following books have been ordered for the course. The main textbook for the course is Politics and Economic Policy in the United States by Jeffrey E. Cohen. The course papers will come Power & Prosperity: Outgrowing Communist and Capitalist Dictatorships by Mancur Olson; The Mystery of Capital: Why Capitalism Triumphs in the West and Fails Everywhere Else, by Hernando de Soto; and Robin Broad’s edited volume, Global Backlash: Citizen Initiatives for a Just World Economy.

All readings should be completed before class.

A note on the readings: Active readers take notes, underline important and mystifying passages, make marginal comments, take time to think about what they have read, and come to class prepared to give their interpretations, share their thoughts, and answer questions. In addition to presenting material in lecture form, I will be asking for feedback and discussion on the readings. If you find yourself having difficulty understanding the material, please set an appointment with me and I will be happy to review the information with you.
Participation:
As scholars of political science, you should be willing to offer your insight and arguments on various topics; likewise, you should be prepared to have your arguments challenged by your colleagues. We are all here to expand our educational foundation; the right to present your argument is just as important as the right to acknowledge countervailing arguments.

Classroom participation includes both attendance and interaction during classroom discussion. If the instructor believes that students are not coming prepared for class, unannounced pop quizzes will be given and counted into the participation grade.

Classroom participation includes both attendance and interaction during classroom discussion. **Attendance for all class meetings is mandatory**; if the instructor is in class, then students are expected to be in class. Unless the College Health Center, the Dean of Students or Dean of the College provides documentation, absences will not be excused. As stated in the Catawba College Catalog (pg. 79), more than 6 absences in this class (1/4 of the class meetings) will result in a grade of F for the course.

Inclement Weather:
If I am unable to make it onto campus, I will leave a message on my voice mail announcement. Please call my office phone number (637.4117) and then wait for the recording. I will leave a special message on my voice mail, with instructions on what to prepare for when I can return to campus.

Review Papers:
Using the Olson and de Soto books, you will write a review paper for each book. The review paper will summarize their main thesis and critique their analysis and arguments. You should also address what value these books have to furthering the understanding of globalization and international political economy. You should plan to write between 6-8 pages for each of the reviews (3-4 pages summarizing the arguments made; 3-4 pages critiquing the arguments made). Please see “Technical Requirements” for specifications.

Globalization Reaction Papers:
Using the various combined articles from the Broad book (as noted below), each student will write a 5-page paper that evaluates each of the articles, and discusses the importance of the ideas within the concept of globalization (2 pages presenting summaries of the arguments presented; 3 pages presenting critiques of the arguments). Each student will write 3 papers out of the 5 topics found within the book.

Technical requirements. The papers will be:
- 5-pages typed for globalization review articles; 6-8 pages typed for book reviews
- double-spaced
- stapled in the upper-left hand corner
- 10/12 point Times
- normal margins (1" around)
- In the upper-left hand corner of the first page, you will have “POLS 2514: Paper #_____” on the first line and the date on the second line.
Your SS# will appear in the “header” (left-hand corner) of every page. Your name will not appear on any pages, so that I may blind grade them.

A page number will appear in the “footer” (right-hand corner) of every page.

For direct quotes or paraphrasing ideas from the articles/books, you may use the parenthetical citation approach (Author’s last name, page number).

Each paper will have a bibliography, which can be on the same page as the last paragraph. Your bibliography format should be the following (as required for publication in most political science journals, commonly referred to as APSR style):

- **For books:** Author’s Lastname, Firstname. Year of Publication. *Title of Work*. City of Publication: Name of the Press.
- **For journal articles:** Author’s Lastname, Firstname. Year of Publication. “Title of Journal Article.” *Journal Name*. Volume Number: Issue Number. Pages X-XX.

At the end of your paper, following your bibliography, you will type the following: “I have abided by the Catawba College Honor Code during the preparation of this paper.”

Failure to adhere to these requirements will be reflected in the paper’s grade.

**Schedule:**
The following is tentative, with changes announced in class:

**I. How Do Political Scientists and Economists Get Along?**

Week 1: Economic Thinking and Political Behavior
- Cohen, Ch. 1
- Xanedu Packet

Week 2: Different Approaches (and Criticisms) of “Rat-Choice” and “Game Theory”
- Xanedu Packet
- Steger, Ch. 1

Week 3: Overview of Globalization—Issues & Controversies among Economists & Political Scientists
- **Assignment due Tuesday:** Prepare a 2-page description, utilizing a “game-theory” approach, of any subject in political science. Further discussion of the assignment will be made in class; be prepared to present your approach.
- Cohen, Ch. 13
- Steger, Ch. 2
- Broad, Introduction

**II. How does the Government and the Private Sector Get Along?**

Week 4: Tensions between Government Ideals, Economic Realities and Human Behavior
- Cohen, Ch. 2 & 3
- Steger, Ch. 3
Week 5: Origins of Economic Policymaking
   - Cohen, Ch. 6
   - **Review** of Mancur Olson’s *Power & Prosperity* due

**III. The Economy, Political Institutions, and Political Behavior**

Week 6: Economic Policymaking in the Executive Branch & Legislative Branch
   - Cohen, Chs. 7 & 8
   - Steger, Ch. 4

Week 7: Economic Policymaking in the Federal Reserve Board & U.S. Supreme Court
   - Cohen, Ch. 9

Week 8: Spring Break

Week 9: Economic Policymaking in the Supreme Court (continued)
   - Cohen, Ch. 10 & 11
   - **MID-TERM EXAM**: Please bring bluebooks if an in-class exam is held.

**IV. Government and the Economy: International Issues & Globalization**

Week 10: Defining “globalization”
   - Steger, Ch. 5 & 6
   - Broad, Part 1: 1.1, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 1.9 (possible “Globalization” **paper**

Week 11: The historical context of a global economy
   - Broad, Part 2: 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.7, 2.8 (possible “Globalization” **paper**

Week 12: What are the tools of a global economy?
   - Broad, Part 3: 3.1, 3.2, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8 (possible “Globalization” **paper**
   - **Review** of de Soto’s *The Mystery of Capitalism* due

Week 13: Corporations and governments in global economics
   - Broad, Part 4: 4.1, 4.2, 4.7, 4.8, 4.11 (possible “Globalization” **paper**

Week 14: Can we really roll-back globalization?
   - Broad, Part 5: 5.1, 5.2, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, 5.8, 5.9 (possible “Globalization” **paper**

Week 15: Can’t We All Just Get Along? What is the impact of globalization, and what should be the role of governments interacting with economic forces?
   - Broad, Conclusion: C1

**FINAL EXAM**: Monday, May 3 from 1-3 PM. Please bring bluebooks if an in-class exam is held.