RPOS 204
**Current Controversies in Global Politics**
Spring 2018 Syllabus

**Yeufen Hsieh (yhsieh4@albany.edu)**

Class: MWF 12:35-1:30pm (HU020)
Office Hours: MW 10:30am-12pm and by appointment (Uptown Campus, HU016)

**Course Description**
The current state of globalization presents multiple challenges and opportunities to scholars and practitioners eager to understand global politics. While new issues emerge, old issues also require researchers to examine with new perspectives and cutting-edge investigative tools. In view of such development, this course focuses on four global issues: *Israel-Palestinian conflict, immigration politics and citizenship ideas, euthanasia* and *climate change*. Students will be exposed to key global politics themes ranging from conflict, nationalism, identity politics, social movements, inequality, technology to human rights. Prerequisite: RPOS102 strongly recommended but not required.

**Learning Objectives**
By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Summarize key global politics concepts and issues we survey in class.
- Distinguish different challenges and policy responses national policymakers face in view of the interconnectedness under globalization and the advancement of technology.
- Critically evaluate the quality of arguments regarding key policy issues in global politics.

**Required Readings**
All the required readings will be available on Blackboard.

**Learning Activities and Grading**
1. Class Participation 15%
2. Group Wiki 15% (Due May 4 Friday 12:35pm)
3. Quizzes 20%
4. Midterm Exam 25% (March 9 Friday 12:35-1:30pm)
5. Final Exam 25% (May 15 Tuesday 10:30am-12:30pm)

**Assignment Policy**
All assignments should be submitted according to the required format. Failure to do so will result in a failing grade. Late submissions will not be accepted, except for religious observance (which needs to be cleared with me in the first two weeks of the semester) or documented medical or family emergency (with a doctor note or one from dean).

Department of Political Science
Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy
University at Albany
Academic Integrity
Plagiarism and cheating in any form will not be tolerated. For more information about plagiarism, please review the webpage: http://www.albany.edu/eas/104/penalty.htm.

Accommodation
Students with special needs due to physical, learning, or other disabilities and wish to be accommodated accordingly must submit the supporting documentation from the Disability Resource Center (http://www.albany.edu/disability/ Campus Center 137) to me (in person) during the first week of class. Please also remind me before each relevant event (e.g. midterm, final and assignment due dates).

Class Etiquette
• Every action in this course is expected to be mature and professional. Please behave and speak in a way that shows respect to your peers, instructor and yourself.
• Please use electronic devices in a responsible and professional manner. Failure to do so consistently will influence your class participation grade. Please read a study that finds how using electronic devices influences learning negatively: http://www.yorku.ca/ncepeda/laptopFAQ.html. You can also find two summaries of this study in the folder of Class Etiquette on Blackboard.

Weekly Readings
January 24: Syllabus and Course Overview

January 26: Basic Concepts

January 29: RCT

January 31: Institutions

February 2: Ideas

February 5: Zionism
October 7: Palestinians

October 9: Watch Documentary

October 12: Religion and Culture in Israel
• Daphne Barak-Erez, Outlawed Pigs: Law, Religion, and Culture in Israel (The University of Wisconsin Press, 2007), ch.8 (pp.81-105).

October 14: UNRWA

October 16: Watch “Rabin, the Last Day” (2015)

October 19: Liberal Paradox

October 21: Post-National Citizenship

October 23: Immigration & Indigenous Workers
• George Borjas, “Yes, Immigration Hurts American Workers,” Politico (September/October 2016).

October 26: Family Reunion

October 28: Non-Refoulement
• Joseph H. Carens, “Refugees,” in: The Ethics of Immigration (Oxford University Press 2003), ch.10 (pp.192-224).

November 2: Watch Documentary “Hotline” (2015)

November 5: Group Wiki Part I
• Wiki in Plain English https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-dnL00TdmLY
• What is a Wiki https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Q7O3Rx7-t0

November 7: Midterm Review

November 9: In-Class Midterm
March 12, March 14, March 16: No Class (Spring Break)

March 19: Euthanasia – The Issue
• Legal Status in 28 Countries

March 21: Euthanasia – The Debate

March 23: Group Wiki Part II

March 26: The Dutch Case I – The Debate

March 28: The Dutch Case II – The Legalization
• John Griffiths et al., *Euthanasia & Law in the Netherlands* (Amsterdam University Press, 1998), read pp.68-88.

March 30: Group Wiki Part III
• What is research? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jLM_djMHaS0

April 2: Belgium

April 4: Denmark

April 6: Comparison

April 9: Climate Change – Evidence
April 11: *Climate Change – Policy Response*

April 13: *On Writing Style*

April 16: *Public & Elite on Climate Change*

April 18: *Economic Factor*

April 20: *On Writing*

April 23: *Climate Change and Distributive Justice*

April 25: *Global Politics of Climate Change*

April 27: *On Plagiarism*
- UA Library Tutorial on Plagiarism [http://library.albany.edu/infolit/plagiarism1](http://library.albany.edu/infolit/plagiarism1)
- UA Academic Integrity [https://www.albany.edu/eltl/academic_integrity.php](https://www.albany.edu/eltl/academic_integrity.php)
- Citation Machine [http://www.citationmachine.net](http://www.citationmachine.net)
- Free Plagiarism Checker [https://www.paperrater.com/plagiarism_checker](https://www.paperrater.com/plagiarism_checker)

April 30: *Global City*

May 2: *Globalism v. Nationalism*

May 4: *Presentations*
Group Wiki due 12:35pm

May 7: *Presentations*
May 9: Presentations

May 11: No Class (Reading Day)

May 15 (Tuesday): Final Exam
Time: 10:30am-12:30pm
Location: TBA